

INFORMATION LETTER

Not for Publication NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION For Members Only

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Standards-making Procedures

Congress cleared for the President the Hale bill, H.R. 6434, to simplify procedures by which the Food and Drug Administration promulgates, amends, and repeals food standards.

The measure eliminates the requirement for a public hearing on all phases of a proposed standard, and provides that hearings need be held only on issues to which objection is made.

As under present procedure, proposed standards will be published in the *Federal Register*. The Hale bill requires that any person who will be adversely affected by the order may file objections within 30 days of publication, and the filing of objections will operate to stay the effectiveness of those provisions to which objection is made. After the 30-day period FDA may put in effect provisions of its order to which there was no objection and must hold a public hearing only on the issues raised by the objections.

Canned Peas for USDA

The Production and Marketing Administration, USDA, on August 3 announced that offers of 387,881 cases of canned peas have been accepted for delivery from August 17 through September 21 for distribution in the national school lunch program.

These purchases consisted of 148,820 cases of No. 10's at prices ranging from \$3.25 to \$4.08 per case and 239,061 cases of No. 303's from \$4.37 to \$2.48 per case. All of these prices are exclusive of cash discounts.

Green Snap Beans for USDA

PMA also announced that because of the limited quantities offered, no purchases are being made of canned green snap beans for the school lunch program.

RSP Cherries for USDA

PMA also said that the quantity of canned sour cherries offered under announcement FV-204 was insufficient to permit effective distribution to school lunch outlets, and that no purchases were made under this announcement.

FDA Factory Inspection Bill Passed by Congress

Legislation authorizing factory inspections by the Food and Drug Administration was approved in the final hour of the first session of the 83rd Congress, August 3. The bill, H.R. 5740, is awaiting the signature of the President.

The measure gives to FDA the authority to enter at reasonable times and to inspect at reasonable times and within reasonable limits and in a reasonable manner a "factory, warehouse, establishment, or vehicle and all pertinent equipment, finished and unfinished materials, containers, and labeling therein."

Additional requirements of the legislation provide that:

(1) The inspector must present appropriate credentials and a written notice of the inspection to the "owner, operator, or agent in charge" for each inspection, which shall be commenced and completed with reasonable promptness;

(2) Upon completion of each inspection, the inspector shall leave with the owner, operator, or agent in charge a report in writing "setting forth any conditions or practices observed by him which, in his judgment, indicate that any food, drug, device or cosmetic" consists of any "filthy, putrid, or decomposed substance, or has been prepared, packed or held under insanitary conditions whereby it may have become contaminated with filth, or whereby it may have been rendered injurious to health";

(3) The inspector shall leave a receipt describing any samples obtained during the inspection;

(4) A copy of the results of an official analysis of whether a sample consists of any filthy, putrid, or decomposed substance or is otherwise

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Mexican Farm Labor Program

Congress cleared for the President a conference report on H.R. 3480, extending the authority under which Mexican nationals may be recruited for agricultural employment. The conference report extends the authority for two years—to Dec. 31, 1955.

Trade Agreements Act

The Senate and House adopted and sent to the President a conference report on H.R. 5495, extending the Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act for one year—to June 12, 1954.

The action has the effect of continuing the President's authority to negotiate with other countries to bring about lower tariffs and reduce other restrictions on trade. The measure also continues the "escape clause" mechanism by which domestic industries injured by imports may obtain protection.

Conferees rejected the House-passed proposal to increase the membership of the Tariff Commission from six to seven and adopted, instead, a requirement that if the six-man Commission divides evenly on the question of granting escape clause action, reports and recommendations on both points of view must be submitted to the President.

The measure also reduces from one year to nine months the period in which the Commission must conclude its investigation and report to the President on escape clause applications (see INFORMATION LETTER of June 30, 1951, page 255).

As requested by the President, the measure provides for establishment of an executive-legislative commission to study and report on U.S. international trade policies and programs. The commission will consist of 17 members, of whom seven will be appointed by

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PROCUREMENT

Tomato Products for USDA

The Production and Marketing Administration, USDA, on August 7 announced offers to buy canned tomatoes and tomato paste from the 1953 pack for use in the national school lunch program. Offers will be considered on No. 10, No. 2½, and No. 2 can sizes.

Invitations to offer canned tomatoes and tomato paste for school lunch use, including detailed specifications, are being mailed by PMA to all known tomato products packers. Offers for the canned tomatoes may be submitted to PMA not later than September 11 and for the tomato paste not later than September 14.

Canned Beef for USDA

The Production and Marketing Administration, USDA, has announced purchase of 7,225,000 pounds of canned beef at an average price of 38.59 cents per pound, f.o.b. plant, during the week of July 27. The purchases were made with Section 32 funds for distribution to charitable institutions and other outlets. This raises total USDA purchases of canned beef to 21,740,500 pounds.

Invitations for Bids

QM Market Center System, 226 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago 6, Ill.
Veterans Administration—Procurement Division, Veterans Administration, Wash. 25, D. C.

The Walsh-Healey Public Contracts Act may apply to all operations performed after the date of notice of award if the total value of a contract is \$10,000 or over.

The Veterans Administration has invited sealed bids to furnish the following:

BURGERS—11,750 dozen No. 10 cans, sliced, Grade A; or equivalent in No. 2 or No. 2½ cans. Bids due under S-60 by Aug. 19.

FRUIT SALAD—7,500 dozen No. 2 cans, water-packed. Bids due under S-72 by August 25.

PEACHES—750 dozen No. 10 cans, yellow-cling, halved or quartered, Grade D, packed without water or syrup; or equivalent in No. 2 or No. 2½ cans. Bids due under S-68 by August 26.

PUBLICITY

American Home Magazine

Two American Home "Quickies" articles appear in the August issue. Many canned foods have been used as the subject for this monthly fea-

ture in the past. Along with the clip-and-save recipes and handsome color photographs of the foods, the August articles also carry an introduction.

One introduction, "Take a Can of Luncheon Meat" by Catherine Nissly, food editor, says "Poor Grandma! She used canned foods for emergency only, for in her day they weren't very palatable. But now we plan to use them regularly, not only because they're quick and handy, but because they're so downright good. For instance luncheon meats—which make fine dinners, breakfasts, and snacks as well, and even take to glamour. Like all canned foods, they are bargains, for they're packed when supplies are high and prices low. We get the advantage of this economy, we pay for no waste, and we can store canned goods indefinitely. That's why we say 'Take a can . . .' The article gives four recipes using canned luncheon meat.

The other article is "Take A Package of Spaghetti." The spaghetti recipes include the following canned foods: consomme, mushrooms, chicken, turkey, tomatoes, ripe olives, tomato sauce, and clams.

Article on Home Ec Program

The program of activities of the N.C.A. Home Economics Division is featured in an illustrated 5½-page article in the *Yearbook of Good Packaging*, magazine, distributed this week.

History of the establishment of the Division and the evolution of its programs are given. The manner in which the course of the work is planned and established by the Committee is discussed. Along with other details, certain sections of the feature present the reasons for the educational work performed and the materials involved in this activity; the contribution of the Test Kitchen to the recipe and menu service; and the programs of newspaper and radio releases that make up the consumer publicity phases of the program.

Carry Article on Fish Featured

The Annual Review Number of *Fishing Gazette*, distributed this week, features an article by Charles R. Carry, Director of the N.C.A. Fishery Products Division.

Mr. Carry's contribution reviews the progress of canned fishery products during the year 1952, reporting on new developments and recent ac-

tivities. He gives the production figures on each of the canned fish packs, with comparisons as to their increase or decrease from the totals of the year before. The article, along with other comment, contains a detailed discussion of the negotiations and the principles of the International Convention for the High Seas Fisheries of the North Pacific, and the tripartite treaty involving the governments of United States, Canada and Japan.

Forthcoming Meetings

August 13-15—Pacific Coast Oyster Growers Association, Annual Meeting, Chamber of Commerce Building, South Bend, Wash.

September 27-30—National Association of Food Chains, Annual Meeting, Palmer House, Chicago

October 15-17—Florida Canners Association, Annual Meeting, Casa Blanca Hotel, Miami Beach

October 26—Texas Canners Association, Annual Convention, Casa de Palmas Hotel, McAllen

October 26-27—National Pickle Packers Association, Annual Meeting, The Drake Hotel, Chicago

November 2—Illinois Canners Association, Fall Meeting, Chicago

November 9-10—Wisconsin Canners Association, 40th Annual Convention, Schroeder Hotel, Milwaukee

November 9-10—Michigan Canners Association, Fall Meeting, Pantlind Hotel, Grand Rapids

November 9-11—Grocery Manufacturers of America, Inc., Annual Meeting, New York City

November 12-13—Iowa-Nebraska Canners Association, Annual Convention, Hotel Fort Des Moines, Des Moines

November 19-20—Indiana Canners Association, Annual Convention, French Lick Springs Hotel, French Lick Springs

November 23-24—Pennsylvania Canners Association, 39th Annual Convention, Penn Harris Hotel, Harrisburg

December 3—Minnesota Canners Association, Annual Convention, St. Paul Hotel, St. Paul

December 3-4—Tri-State Packers Association, Inc., 50th Annual Meeting, Haddon Hall, Atlantic City, N. J.

December 10-11—New York State Canners and Freezers Association, Inc., 68th Annual Convention

December 10-11—Ohio Canners Association, 46th Annual Convention, The Neil House, Columbus

January 4-6—Northwest Canners Association, Annual Convention, Multnomah Hotel, Portland, Ore.

January 7-8—Canners League of California, Annual Fruit and Vegetable Sample Cutting, Hotel Fairmont, San Francisco

January 18-21—Canadian Food Processors Association, Annual Convention, Alpine Inn, Ste. Marguerite, P.Q.

January 19-22—National-American Wholesale Grocers Association, Annual Convention, Ambassador Hotel, Atlantic City, N. J.

January 23-27—National Canners Association, 47th Annual Convention, together with National Food Brokers Association and Canning Machinery and Supplies Association, Atlantic City, N. J.

February 3-4—Minnesota Canners Association, Seventh Annual Canners and Fieldmen's Short Course, Leamington Hotel, Minneapolis

March 15-16—Canners League of California, 50th Annual Directors Conference, Santa Barbara Biltmore, Santa Barbara

MEETING

Pacific Coast Oyster Canners

The Pacific Coast Oyster Growers Association will hold its annual meeting in South Bend, Wash., August 13-15, with most of the sessions in the Chamber of Commerce Building. One of the events on the three-day program will be a cutting of canned oysters.

CONGRESS

Small Business Administration

The President has approved legislation creating a Small Business Administration and leading to liquidation of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation.

P. L. 163 terminates lending activities of the RFC 60 days after enactment, or on September 28, and gives the agency until June 30, 1954, to liquidate.

Whereas RFC had almost unlimited lending authority, the Small Business Administration may make loans not to exceed \$150,000 and only to a small business concern, which is defined as "one which is independently owned and operated and which is not dominant in its field of operation."

The SBA will have a revolving fund of \$275 million, of which \$150 million may be allocated to loans, \$100 million for bidding on government contracts to be reassigned to small manufacturers, and \$25 million for disaster loan activities.

The SBA will be managed by an Administrator, who will be guided by a Loan Policy Board headed by the Administrator and including the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of Commerce.

P. L. 163 authorizes the President to transfer the RFC tin program to any agency. It also establishes the SBA for a two-year period ending June 30, 1955.

Trade Agreements Act

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the President and five each from the Senate and House. The commission, to be known as the Commission on Foreign Economic Policy, must report to the President and Congress within 60 days after the next regular session of the 83rd Congress is convened.

FDA Factory Inspection

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unfit for food shall be furnished promptly to the owner, operator, or agent in charge;

(5) In any condemnation proceeding, the court shall allow the defendant to obtain a representative sample of the article seized and a true copy of the analysis, and the identifying marks or numbers.

The measure prohibits any promotional use of any information in an inspection report or the results of an official analysis.

As reported in the INFORMATION LETTER of July 11, page 233, and July 18, page 237, the House Committee and members of the House devoted considerable time to establish a Congressional intent and legislative history to the effect that the factory inspection authority does not include a right for the Food and Drug Administration to inspect such things as formulas, personnel qualifications, or consumer complaint files.

Doubt as to this legislative interpretation was temporarily cast on the meaning of the bill, however, by the language of the report by the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare. In favorably reporting the bill to the Senate on July 29, the Senate Committee report tended to broaden the scope of the proposed factory inspection authority by suggesting that FDA would have the authority to inspect formulas, technical qualifications of personnel, and consumer complaint files.

When the bill came before the Senate for debate, however, it was brought out that the Committee report had not been seen by members of the Senate Committee until after it had been printed and after the bill had been placed on the Senate calendar, and the report had been written without the knowledge of any members of the Committee.

The Senator in charge of the bill during the debate, Senator Purtell (Conn.), advised the Senate that "if the report of the Senate is in any way in disagreement with the report of the House, I have no objection to the interpretation of the printed report of the House." Senator Purtell also stated on the floor of the Senate that "if there is anything in the [Senate] report inconsistent with the act or with the bill, it should be disregarded."

Further comment by N.C.A. Council on the effect of the new law will be published in a forthcoming issue of the INFORMATION LETTER.

New Association Members

The following firms have been admitted into membership in the N.C.A. since June 13, 1953:

ARIZONA CANNING CO., P. O. Box 3947, Phoenix, Ariz. Product—Dried beans. Officer—James R. Bell, president.

KENNETH CANNING CO., P. O. Box 1057, Kennett Square, Pa. Product—Mushrooms. Officer—Edward J. Sharpless, president.

MARINE FISHERIES, INC., 5007 38th Ave. N. E., Seattle 5, Wash. Factory—Floating cannery in Alaska. Products—Crab meat; salmon. Officer—A. E. Allen, Jr., secretary-treasurer.

SMITH, WILLIAM F., c/o S & P Sales Co., 2005 Exchange Building, Seattle 4, Wash. Factories—Tenakee, Hoonah, Alaska. Product—Crab meat.

ST. MARY'S MISSION, 675 Colman Building, Seattle 4, Wash. Product—Mushrooms.

STATISTICS

Pack of Canned Meat

The quantity of meat canned and meat products processed under federal inspection during the month of June has been reported by the Bureau of Animal Industry, USDA. However, this report represents only the supply of meat products canned during that period and remaining for civilian consumption. Total production, including quantities for defense, was 130,943 pounds.

Canned Meat and Meat Products Processed under Federal Inspection June, 1953

	3 Lbs. & over	Under 3 Lbs.	Total
	(in thousands of pounds)		
Luncheon meat.....	14,844	11,272	26,116
Canned ham.....	7,450	413	7,863
Corned beef hash.....	268	2,560	2,594
Chili con carne.....	296	5,318	5,615
Vienna sausage.....	26	3,626	3,652
Frankfurters and weiners in brine.....	2	356	358
Deviled ham.....	4	572	576
Other potted and deviled meat products.....	563	4,756	5,320
Tamales.....	50	1,304	1,354
Sliced, dried beef.....	19	335	353
Liver products.....		139	139
Meat stew.....	16	3,183	3,199
Spaghetti meat products.....	78	3,580	3,667
Tongue (not pickled).....	57	114	171
Vinegar pickled products.....	627	1,391	2,018
Bulk sausage.....		938	938
Hamburger.....	200	1,833	2,033
Soups.....	754	43,242	43,996
Sausage in oil.....	381	486	867
Tripe.....		282	282
Brains.....		272	272
Bacon.....	12	37	48
All other products 20% or more meat.....	308	4,524	4,833
All other products less than 20% meat (except soup).....	1,453	9,458	10,910
Total all products....	27,408	100,006	127,413

Poultry Used in Canning

Poultry canned or used in canning during the first six months of 1953 totaled 96,097,000 pounds, 10 percent more than the 87,089,000 pounds used during the same period of 1952, according to a report by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, USDA.

Agricultural Prices

The index of prices received by farmers remained unchanged during the month ending July 15 at 259 percent of the 1910-14 average, according to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Substantial increases in prices received for livestock and livestock products were offset by sharply lower prices for most fruit and commercial truck crops accompanied by moderately lower prices for many other crops.

The index of prices received by growers for fruit declined 18 percent during the month ending July 15. Prices for both peaches and oranges declined sharply. Prices for apples and grapefruit also declined, while prices for lemons and strawberries increased.

LABELING

GMA Labeling Leaflet

Mailed to each member this week was a copy of *The Inside Story*, published by the Grocery Manufacturers of America, Inc., and describing descriptive labeling.

The 28-page leaflet is written from the point of view of the consumer and is designed to stimulate increased consumer interest in descriptive labeling.

Included in the leaflet is material supplied by N.C.A.

RAW PRODUCTS

Grading for Visual Defects

The labor required to sort and grade fruits and vegetables for visual defects by the usual methods can be reduced substantially by changing to methods tested in a research project by the University of California and the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

According to an announcement by the Production and Marketing Ad-

ministration, the tests indicated that the man-hours for sorting and grading lemons can be reduced by about 75 percent, for oranges 67 percent, and for potatoes 15 percent. PMA said that studies in some fruit packing plants indicate that sorting and grading account for roughly 15 percent of the total labor costs.

The improvements, PMA said, are based largely on methods and equipment which assure that the fruit or vegetable on the grading belt passes the sorter at the proper speed, at the correct speed of rotation, and with the proper number of rows of the commodity on the belt.

With four rows of lemons on the belt, it was found that the most efficient sorting resulted when the specimens revolved three times per foot of forward movement. Direct approach of the fruit toward the sorter was found to be more efficient than movement of the fruit past a sorter standing beside the belt. With oranges, the best speed of rotation was 1.53 revolutions per foot of forward movement. For potatoes, the best result was obtained with three rows rotating three times per foot of forward movement.

Wooden specimens, shaped and painted with spots representing defects of various sizes, were used in the experiments.

Factors affecting the speed and accuracy of sorting and grading are discussed in a report on the study, "Visual Inspection of Products for Surface Characteristics in Grading Operations." A copy of the report may be obtained from the Office of Information Services, PMA, USDA, Washington 25, D. C.

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SUPPLIES

International Tin Agreement

A group of tin consumers has recommended that the United States be represented at an international conference in Geneva this fall to consider a tin agreement.

At a special conference on July 31 between tin consumers and the National Production Authority, the State Department reported on a meeting of the International Tin Study Group that was held in Brussels June 15-27. At that meeting, the 14 nations present considered various proposals for international action on tin and requested the delegations to confer with their governments on the desirability of a further conference.

The action by the tin consumer group places them on record as favoring the conference.

Shipments of Glass Containers

Shipments of glass containers for food during the first six months of 1953 have exceeded the volume shipped during the same period of 1952, on the basis of reports by the Bureau of the Census, U. S. Department of Commerce.

	Jan. through June 1952	1953 (quantities expressed in gross)
Wide-mouth food (in- cluding fruit jars and jelly glasses)	14,002,000	15,151,573
Narrow-neck food.....	5,778,881	6,158,441

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